



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Rosie Truelove, Director
Housing and Planning Department

DATE: February 25, 2021

SUBJECT: Storm Related Response: Emergency Home Repairs

As part of the City of Austin's comprehensive response to the February 2021 Texas Severe Winter Storm, the Housing and Planning Department (HPD) is working to launch an Emergency Home Repair initiative that will help to address widespread damage to Austinites' homes.

HPD currently administers a variety of home repair programs for low- to moderate-income Austinites. These programs make homes safe, healthy, and accessible for a range of homeowners, including seniors and people with disabilities. In response to the February 2021 Texas Severe Winter Storm, HPD will launch an Emergency Home Repair, effective Monday, March 1, 2021.

Program Structure:

- Austin Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) will administer the Emergency Home Repair. This effort will be funded through a variety of public and private sources, including Austin Water, General Obligation Bonds, and a grant from Bank of America, which will help support efforts underway.
- HPD/AHFC staff will be responsible for application intake, basic eligibility review, and resource referral. HPD will utilize seven experienced, local non-profit organizations that currently administer the General Obligation Bond funded home repair program (GoRepair!) to carry out approved repairs. Up to \$10,000 in funding will be provided directly to the non-profit after all approved work has been completed as agreed upon by the non-profit staff, the homeowner, and the contractor.
- Eligible participants include homeowners within the City of Austin's full purpose jurisdiction, with household incomes at or below 80% Median Family Income (MFI). Participants must have experienced damage(s) to their primary residence as a result of the February 2021 Texas Severe Winter Storm, causing harm to the life, health, or safety of the occupants.
- Participants cannot receive duplicate benefits through FEMA or insurance proceeds. Eligible repairs include repair or replacement of:

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request.

- Wall/Floor removal
- Sewer lines
- Gas lines
- Water lines and/or water damage
- Roof
- Electrical System
- HVAC units
- Plumbing fixtures – including sink pipes and toilets damaged by frozen conditions
- Mold remediation
- Applicants will provide basic documentation to determine eligibility, including the following:
 - Application
 - Proof of Household Income
 - Proof of Identity
 - Proof of primary homeowner occupancy
 - Proof of damage(s) that occurred because of the February 2021 Texas Severe Winter Storm

We appreciate the ongoing collaboration with our local non-profit organizations and the Austin Home Repair Coalition. With their assistance, the City of Austin will be able to address hundreds of emergency home repairs and ensure that our low- and moderate-income homeowners are able to remain in safe, healthy, and accessible homes.

cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
CMO Executive Team
J. Rodney Gonzales, Assistant City Manager